

**PSC NAMES NATURAL GAS COMMODITY PRICE
TASK FORCE PARTICIPANTS**

Jefferson City (March 21, 2001)---The Missouri Public Service Commission has named those who will serve on the **Natural Gas Commodity Price Task Force**. Warren Wood, Manager of the Commission's Natural Gas Department will serve as Chairman of the Task Force.

Also named from the Commission Staff are Thomas Schwarz, Task Force Vice Chairman, and David Sommerer.

Those also named to the task force include:

Gary Wood, Superintendent, Bethany Municipal Gas System

Jim Browning, Mayor, City of Palmyra

Cathleen Meyer, Manager of Pricing, City Utilities of Springfield

Bill Guinther, Cooperating School Districts of Greater St. Louis

Jeremiah Finnegan, Special Counsel, Jackson County

Joseph Schulte, Business Representative Gas Workers Union Local 5-6

Chris Kaitson, General Counsel, Kansas Pipeline Company

Anne McGregor, MC2 Utility Consultants

Jan Marcason, Mid-America Assistance Coalition, Inc.

Anita Randolph, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Rob Hack, Attorney, Missouri Gas Energy

Diana Vuylsteke, Attorney, Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers

Richard Kovach, Union Electric Company d/b/a AmerenUE

Robert Amdor, UtiliCorp United/Energy One

Atmos Energy Corporation, Fidelity Natural Gas, Inc., Laclede Gas Company, the Office of the Public Counsel and Southern Missouri Gas Company will also have a representative on the task force. They have been asked to nominate one person for the task force.

(More)

The following individuals have also been named to the task force:

Susan Bisges	Stuart Conrad	Charles Day	Mark Drazen
Rep. Rod Jetton	Robert Kindle	Charles Laderoute	Joyce Lucas
Mary Matalone	Tim Maupin	Rep. Carol Jean Mays	Debbie Minor
Patricia Ann Merritt	Amy Sheridan	Sen. Sarah Steelman	Richard Taylor
Vicki Walker	Joyce White		

BACKGROUND: Price increases in the commodity cost of natural gas (the price of gas from wholesale suppliers) this winter resulted in significant increases in prices paid by customers of local natural gas distribution companies in Missouri. As a result, the Missouri Public Service Commission established a case on January 23, 2001, to investigate the process for the recovery of the natural gas commodity costs by local distribution companies from their customers.

The current process of company recovery of wholesale supplier changes was initiated through the Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) mechanism in the early 1960s. In 1997, in an effort to bring rate stability to Missouri consumers, the Commission approved agreements which reduced the number of annual filings by local natural gas companies to a maximum of three. In today's volatile, competitive market, with high natural gas prices this winter, and with increased demand for natural gas, the Missouri Public Service Commission believes that this is an appropriate time to review the current process. The Commission determined that a task force would be created to investigate and discuss options on this issue.

The Commission wants to hear from the public. A number of local public meetings will be held in Missouri. A schedule will be released when dates and locations are finalized.

---0---